

REMARKS

This response contains additional remarks in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. Applicants respectfully request entry of the January 10, 2008 Amendment, the February 15, 2008 Supplemental Amendment, the May 6, 2008 Supplemental Amendment, and the present response. All of the remarks and arguments included with the January 10, 2008 reply, the February 15, 2008 reply, and the May 6, 2008 reply are incorporated by reference herein.

The Examiner indicated that the May 6, 2008 reply must present arguments pointing out the specific distinctions believed to render the newly presented claims patentable over any applied references. Applicants respectfully submit that this issue is overcome by the following remarks.

Newly Proposed Claims 13-15

Applicants added newly proposed claims 13-15 in the May 6, 2008 Supplemental Amendment in an effort to further define the scope of protection owed to Applicants. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 13-15 are allowable for the reasons given previously for claim 1, from which claims 13-15 depend. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 13-15 clearly define over the prior art of record, and an early action to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Applicants respectfully submit that all issues in this application have been fully addressed and that the claims are in condition for allowance. An early reconsideration and Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

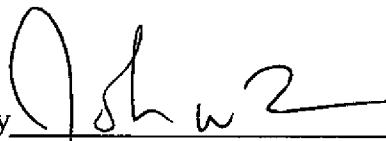
Based upon the amendments and remarks presented herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance clearly indicating that each of pending claims 1-2 and 4-15 are allowed and patentable under the provisions of Title 35 of the United States Code.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey (Reg. No. 32,881) at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 29, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

John W. Bailey

Registration No.: 32,881

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicants